

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**JEFF MCGRAW,
Y38458,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

MARY PEEKS, et al,

Defendants.

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Case No. 3:21-cv-800-SMY

SCHEDULING AND DISCOVERY ORDER

YANDLE, District Judge:

The issue of exhaustion of administrative remedies has been resolved, and thus the previously imposed stay on merits discovery is lifted.

I. Discovery

- A. Each party is limited to serving 15 interrogatories, 15 requests for production of documents, and 10 requests for admission. On motion, these limits may be increased for good cause shown.
- B. Any interrogatories, requests for production of documents, or requests for admissions shall be served so as to allow the answering party the full thirty-day period provided by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in which to respond.
- C. The parties are reminded that discovery requests must be made in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b): the parties should only “obtain discovery regarding any non-privileged matter that is relevant to any party’s claim or defense and proportional to the needs of the case.”
- D. Defendants are given leave to depose Plaintiff pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2). Defendants shall serve any Rule 30 notice upon Plaintiff at

least **2 weeks** prior to the date of a deposition. Plaintiff is informed that he must cooperate in the taking of his deposition. It is appropriate and proper for defense counsel to take a Plaintiff's deposition and to ask questions even if Plaintiff is not represented by counsel. The failure to cooperate in the taking of a deposition by, for example, refusing to answer appropriate questions, may result in sanctions, including the dismissal of this lawsuit. Plaintiff is directed to review Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30.

- E. All discovery must be completed by **July 13, 2023**. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(e), the parties are under an ongoing obligation to supplement the disclosures and production in this case. Failure to timely disclose or supplement discovery in this case may result in sanctions, including being prohibited from using the undisclosed information or witness.
- F. If a motion to compel discovery pursuant to Rule 37 is filed, the party filing the motion also shall submit the discovery requests and responses (if any) at issue.
- G. The Court encourages the parties to conduct discovery in a timely manner. Motions for extension of the discovery deadline filed on or shortly before a deadline are disfavored.

II. Dispositive Motions

Any dispositive motion on the merits of Plaintiff's claims shall be filed by **August 14, 2023**. **Plaintiff is WARNED that the failure to respond to a dispositive motion may result in an Order granting summary judgment and terminating this matter.**

The parties are **REMINDED** that under SDIL Local rule 7.1 and this Court's Case Management Procedures, **reply briefs are not favored and should be filed only in exception circumstances**. In that regard, any party wishing to file a reply brief shall, within three (3) days

of service of the response, file a motion for leave. The motion for leave shall set forth the exceptional circumstances justifying a reply. If filed, reply briefs may be no longer than 5 pages and must be filed within fourteen (14) days of obtaining leave for replies governed by Local Rule 7.1(c) and within seven (7) days of obtaining leave for replies governed by Local Rule 7.1(g). Any reply briefs filed in violation of these requirements shall be stricken and will not be considered by the Court.

III. *Daubert* Motions

All *Daubert* motions (seeking to exclude expert testimony/evidence) shall be filed by **August 14, 2023**. The parties are **WARNED** that *Daubert* motions not filed in accord with this deadline will be denied as untimely-filed.

IV. Trial Schedule

Trial will be set once the Court rules on all dispositive motions, or, if none are filed, once the deadline for dispositive motions has passed. The Court will set a status conference with the parties to select a firm trial date. The parties should confer with each other prior to the status conference to identify potential trial dates. Once the trial date is set, a continuance will be granted only in the rarest of circumstances.

V. Other Matters

Plaintiff is **REMINDED** that he is under a continuing obligation to keep the Clerk of Court and the opposing party informed of any change in his address; the Court will not independently investigate his whereabouts. This shall be done in writing and not later than **7 days** after a transfer or other change in address occurs. Failure to comply with this order will cause a delay in the transmission of court documents and may result in dismissal of this action for want of prosecution and failure to comply with a court order. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b).

Finally, if the parties believe a settlement conference would be beneficial now or at any

point before trial, they should submit a joint written request to the Court and the matter will be referred to a Magistrate Judge for a settlement conference.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: September 13, 2022

s/ Staci M. Yandle
STACI M. YANDLE
United States District Judge